(d) As per the Public Enterprises Survey 2000-2001 (Vol. I) published by the Department of Public Enterprises, there were 250 Central Public Sector Enterprises as on 31-3-2001. Some of the general steps taken by the Government to improve their management and functioning, include professionalisation of the PSU Boards, periodic performance review meeting by the administrative ministries, reduction of surplus manpower through VRS, technology upgradation, organisational and capital restructuring including formation of joint ventures etc. The concerned Administrative Ministries/Departments are taking necessary action in this respect.

Disposal of surplus land of VSNL

*3. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering floating a separate company to dispose of surplus land available with the VSNL;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached with the new management of VSNL;

(c) whether permission to float a new company will have to be taken from US Securities and Exchange Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The Agreement entered into by the Government with the Strategic Partner of VSNL envisages the demerger of identified surplus land into a separate new company pursuant to a scheme of arrangement in terms of provisions of Section 391—394 of Companies Act, 1956. The Strategic Partner has undertaken that it shall take and cause to be taken all necessary measures/steps, which would include any legal formalities that may be necessary, for implementation of the scheme of arrangement.

National Judicial Commission

*4. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to form a National Judicial Commission for making appointments in Judiciary; and

(b) if so, by when it will be formed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to the idea of setting up a National Judicial Commission which would make recommendations for judicial appointments in the Supreme Court and the High Courts as also draw up a Code of Ethics for the judges.

Since the Government is still in the process of building a national consensus over the proposal to set up of a National Judicial Commission leading to an amendment to the Constitution of India, it will not be feasible to indicate a timeframe in this regard.

Bifurcation of National Commission for SCs and STs

*5. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bifurcate the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for bifurcation of the Commission is under consideration.

(b) To give focused attention for the Welfare and Development of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.

Increase in seats in Dental and Medical Colleges

*6. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Admissions: 76 Dental, Medical Colleges out", which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 17th June, 2002; and

1714 GIPMR/03—6